

EXHIBIT 14

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
District of Delaware
824 Market Street, 3rd Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801

In Re:

TK Holdings, Inc., et al.
Debtor

Chapter: 11

Bankruptcy No. 17-11375-BLS

TK Holdings Inc.

Plaintiff

Adversary No. 17-50880-BLS

vs.

State of Hawai'i, by its Office of Consumer Protection
, et al.

Defendant

***NOTICE OF FILING OF TRANSCRIPT AND OF DEADLINES RELATED TO RESTRICTION AND
REDACTION***

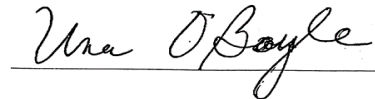
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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

IN RE: Chapter 11
TK HOLDINGS, INC., et al., Case No. 17-11375 (BLS)
Debtors.
TK HOLDINGS INC., et al., Adv. Pro. No. 17-50880
Plaintiffs,
- against -
STATE OF HAWAII, by its Office
Of Consumer Protection, Courtroom No. 5
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES 824 Market Street
VIRGIN ISLANDS, STATE OF NEW Wilmington, Delaware 19801
MEXICO, ex rel. HECTOR BALDERAS
Attorney General, et al., August 16, 2017
11:00 A.M.
Defendants.

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING
BEFORE HONORABLE BRENDAN L. SHANNON
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

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TELEPHONIC HEARING

RULING

4

1 (Telephonic hearing commenced at 11:00 a.m.)

2 THE COURT: Good morning, counsel, this is Judge
3 Shannon. I understand from the operator that all necessary
4 parties are on the call.

5 This is a hearing in the TK Holdings family of
6 cases; case number 17-11375.

7 This is the time that the court has set to issue
8 its ruling on the debtors' request for a preliminary
9 injunction in Adversary Proceeding Number 17-50880.

10 The court conducted a hearing last Wednesday, at
11 which extensive argument was heard and evidence was adduced
12 on behalf of all effected parties.

13 At the conclusion of the hearing, the court took
14 the matter under advisement with a commitment to provide a
15 ruling today.

16 As I said at the end of the hearing, given the
17 significance and complexity of the issues that are before the
18 court, as well as the number of effected parties, it is an
19 understatement to say that I would prefer to address this
20 dispute by way of formal written opinion.

21 But the circumstances of this case do not afford
22 the time that such an opinion would take. So, I will provide
23 my ruling orally today and I will try to be as clear as I
24 can, but I would appreciate your patience, and I warn you
25 that you may have to bear with me a bit as I go on this

1 morning.

2 Before I rule, I must take a moment to acknowledge
3 and commend the parties. The briefing was thorough,
4 excellent and helpful, and the presentations by counsel last
5 week helped greatly to clarify the complex dispute that's
6 before the court.

7 Also, it is not lost on me how much coordination
8 and cooperation was required among the parties to timely
9 provide the court with a manageable and, as I said, excellent
10 set of briefing.

11 In summary, I will grant in part and deny in part
12 the request for a preliminary injunction. I will enter the
13 requested injunction as to the state actions for a period of
14 ninety (90) days through and including November 15, 2017,
15 including an injunction to cover Takata Corp or TKJP as I
16 find that Bankruptcy Code Section 1521(d) does not preclude
17 me from entering that relief.

18 So, I will enjoin the state actions as they relate
19 to the debtors and the other defendants, therein.

20 I will also grant the motion and enter the
21 requested preliminary injunction for a period of ninety (90)
22 days through and including November 15, 2017 as to all of the
23 individual other than the multidistrict litigation currently
24 pending in the Southern District of Florida.

25 The MDL will not be stayed by this court as to

1 non-debtor litigants and, specifically, as to the OEMs for
2 specific reasons that I will discuss in a few minutes.

3 Turning to the issue before the court, we have two
4 broad categories of litigation the debtors would seek to
5 stay.

6 First, the state actions which were commenced by
7 Hawaii, New Mexico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. And,
8 second, what we have called the individual actions, which
9 include personal injury and economic loss actions, pending in
10 courts around the country and, in particular, in a
11 multidistrict litigation pending in Federal District Court in
12 Miami.

13 This second category of individual actions breaks
14 down further into personal injury litigation, class actions
15 alleging economic loss or diminution in the value of vehicles
16 on account of the debtors' products, and, finally, litigation
17 against the debtors for damages caused by delay or
18 unavailability of replacement airbags.

19 The operative feature of substantially all of this
20 litigation for our purposes today is that the automobile
21 manufacturers, whom we've collected called the OEMs or the
22 consenting OEMs, are parties with the debtors to these
23 litigations, either by way of having been sued alongside the
24 debtors or having third parties in the debtors after the
25 litigation commenced.

1 And the debtors presently enjoy the benefits of
2 Section 362(a) and the automatic stay. So most of this
3 litigation is already stayed as to them with the possible
4 exception of the state actions, which are alleged to be
5 exempt from the automatic stay as an exercise of police or
6 regulatory power.

7 What the debtors seek here is to obtain an
8 injunction essentially to wrap the protections of the
9 automatic stay around the consenting OEMs and TKJP while they
10 pursue their reorganization.

11 The background facts are not in material dispute.
12 TKJP, TK Holdings and their affiliates are a multinational
13 Tier I supplier to a host of U.S. and foreign automobile
14 manufacturers. The debtors manufactured and sold tens of
15 millions of airbag inflator systems containing phase
16 stabilized ammonium nitrate as the propellant.

17 The record reflects that especially under
18 environmental conditions characterized by high heat and
19 humidity, these PSAN inflators may degrade overtime and
20 rupture causing injury or death to the occupants of the
21 vehicle.

22 The debtor has acknowledged, and the court notes,
23 the suffering that has been caused on account of the
24 defective airbag systems and the court has carefully reviewed
25 the declarations of Mr. Rothenberg, Mr. Dean, and Mr. Miner

1 [ph] detailing examples of the injuries suffered by their
2 clients. And I have had the benefit of their presentations
3 last week to provide a human face and context to these
4 lawsuits.

5 I am extremely sympathetic to the circumstances
6 that these claimants face and I am particularly sensitive to
7 the argument raised by the tort claimant's committee and
8 others regarding the potential consequences of a delay in
9 their lawsuits and, frankly, a delay in these injured persons
10 having their day in court.

11 The record reflects that there's been a criminal
12 investigation by federal authorities and, ultimately, a plea
13 arrangement for Takata that, among other things, must be
14 funded by the end of February 2018. The record reflects that
15 the debtors have filed these cases pursuant to a bankruptcy
16 strategy or business plan that contemplates the sale of
17 substantially all of the debtors' assets to Key Safety
18 Systems pursuant to a plan of reorganization, with these
19 debtors retaining assets and operations related to
20 manufacturing of replacement kits to support the ongoing
21 product recall requirements.

22 The record further reflects that the debtors
23 advised the court at the outset of these cases that they had
24 to obtain the support of a consenting OEMs for their
25

1 reorganization strategy. That support has been memorialized,
2 in part, in an accommodation agreement that is presently
3 scheduled to be presented to the court in September.

4 No plan of reorganization has been filed at this
5 point. And the debtors have advised the court that they are
6 finalizing documentation relating to the plan and the
7 transaction with Key.

8 And so, we are here today with the debtor
9 requesting injunctive relief out of an expressed concern that
10 the various litigations that I mentioned above may delay,
11 distract from, or disrupt the debtors' intended
12 reorganization strategy.

13 Specifically, the debtors have requested that this
14 court enter a preliminary injunction to enjoin the state
15 actions and all of the individual litigation against TKJP and
16 the OEMs in order to afford them an opportunity to focus on
17 and pursue their reorganization plan.

18 The requested duration of the injunction by the
19 debtors is six months to take them through confirmation on
20 the timeline that was described by the debtors at the outset
21 of these cases. However, in the absence of a filed plan and
22 related documents, I am not prepared to afford the debtors
23 the full runway that they have requested.

24 From the debtors' representations, I expect the
25 transaction documents and a plan will be filed long before

1 the expiration of the ninety (90) day stay that I am
2 imposing. And if the debtors at that time wish to seek a
3 further extension of the stay perhaps to presumably get them
4 through confirmation, then I expect we will have a more
5 complete record upon which all parties may evaluate the
6 proposed reorganization, which lies at the heart of the
7 debtors' request for injunctive relief.

8 As always, the court starts with the determination
9 of its jurisdiction over the pending matter. All parties
10 have correctly observed that Bankruptcy Code Section 105(a)
11 does not provide, in the words of the court in Combustion
12 Engineering, "an independent source of subject matter
13 jurisdiction."

14 Instead, this court's jurisdiction must be
15 established under 28 U.S.C. Sections 1334 and 157. And,
16 again, all parties have briefed it, but it bears repeating
17 that bankruptcy Courts possess jurisdiction by referral from
18 the District Court of proceedings arising under Title 11 or
19 arising in or related to cases under Title 11. Today, our
20 focus is on this court's related to jurisdiction.

21 An analysis of this court's related to
22 jurisdiction must begin with consideration of a Third
23 Circuit's seminal decision in Pacor which articulated an
24 expansive test finding related to jurisdiction if a matter
25 could have any conceivable effect on the reorganization

1 effort of the debtors. Subsequent cases have refined and
2 clarified this analysis.

3 At bottom, case law teaches that this court must
4 find an identity of interest between the debtors and the non-
5 debtor defendants and the court must also find that the
6 reorganization process will be detrimentally affected in the
7 absence of relief.

8 As to the state actions, the parties have not
9 contended that this court lacks subject matter jurisdiction
10 over this matter as it relates to the debtors. The focus of
11 the parties' submissions was largely on whether the state
12 actions are protected from an injunction because they are
13 regulatory or police powers under Section 362(b)(4) or,
14 alternatively, that the debtors have not carried their heavy
15 evidentiary burden for the entry of an injunction on the
16 merits.

17 The court's subject matter jurisdiction to enjoin
18 the state actions as to the OEMs and TKJP, relies on the
19 related to jurisdiction analysis that the court must perform
20 as to the individual actions, which I will discuss in a
21 moment. And in which I can conclude that the court does, in
22 fact, possess related to jurisdiction to support the entry of
23 the injunctive relief to stay pending litigation against non-
24 debtors.

25

1 Accordingly, the court concludes that it has
2 subject matter jurisdiction to hear the debtors' request as
3 to the state actions, and I will turn to the merits in a
4 moment.

5 This court's jurisdiction to enjoin the
6 prosecution of the individual actions against the consenting
7 OEMs and TKJP has been hotly disputed by the tort claimant's
8 committee, the MDL claimants, the Suarez plaintiffs, and
9 others likely to be affected by the injunction.

10 I do note that the Turk plaintiffs have been
11 dismissed from this litigation consistent with
12 representations that were made in open court last week.

13 The debtors argue that this court possesses
14 related to jurisdiction over the individual actions. They
15 point to the contractual indemnification obligations owed by
16 the debtors to the consenting OEMs and TKJP and also identify
17 risks of collateral estoppel and record taint in the event
18 the individual actions proceed against the consenting OEMs
19 without the debtors at the table.

20 In addition, the record reflects that TKJP shares
21 an identity of interest with these debtors by virtue of its
22 relationship within the corporate family. And, finally, the
23 debtors contend that allowing the individual actions to
24 proceed will adversely impact their reorganization at this
25 very early stage by distracting their management and by

1 encouraging the debtors, the consenting OEMs, and the various
2 plaintiffs to focus their efforts on matters pending in
3 numerous forms around the country, rather than directing
4 their energies and attention to the reorganization process in
5 this court.

6 The objectors submit that the court's related to
7 jurisdiction is not so broad as to permit the entry of a stay
8 for the benefit of non-debtors, such as the consenting OEMs
9 and TKJP. They contend that the indemnification obligations
10 to OEMs, upon which the debtors rely, are not a sufficiently
11 developed connection or obligation upon which to base this
12 court's jurisdiction.

13 For this point, the plaintiffs rely heavily on the
14 decisions in W.R. Grace and in Federal Mogul, which both
15 sides addressed and briefed extensively.

16 Separately, all of the objectors and,
17 particularly, the MDL plaintiffs, note that they are not
18 pursuing the consenting OEMs exclusively on a theory of
19 derivative liability for the debtors' wrongdoing. Rather,
20 they are also pursuing direct theories and claims alleging
21 that the consenting OEMs acted wrongfully and with knowledge
22 of the defective airbags and the risk that they posed to the
23 public. They reason that this fact undercuts the identity of
24 interest between the OEMs and the debtors.

25

1 Finally, the plaintiffs dispute whether the
2 debtors' reorganization will suffer from delay and
3 distraction in the absence of an injunction. I am satisfied,
4 as I noted, that this court has related to jurisdiction over
5 the individual actions, sufficient to support entry of a
6 ninety (90) stay I mentioned at the outset.

7 I start with the indemnity issue.

8 The record developed at this early stage of the
9 proceeding is sufficient to establish that the debtors have
10 significant exposure on account of their contractual
11 indemnification obligations to the consenting OEMs. The
12 court received substantial evidence and testimony as to the
13 debtors' contractual obligations to the consenting OEMs, and
14 the record reflects that hundreds of cross-claims have been
15 filed against the debtors by the consenting OEMs based upon
16 theories of indemnification and joint liability.

17 While the issue of the indemnities and their
18 enforceability is not ultimately before me, in its simplest
19 terms, I would be surprised if the situation were otherwise,
20 and if the debtors did not have at least a meaningful
21 prospect of indemnity exposure here.

22 The record is undisputed that these debtors sold
23 part under contract to be installed in vehicles manufactured
24 by the consenting OEMs. And those parts have been
25 demonstrated to fail and to cause injury. Yes, I understand

1 that there are other claims and other theories raised by
2 plaintiffs against the consenting OEMs, but literally
3 everything here begins with the delivery and installation of
4 a defective part manufactured by the debtors.

5 I do not accept the objector's contention that the
6 OEMs inability to be indemnified for their own negligent or
7 wrongful acts operates to vitiate the identity of interest
8 that's otherwise created by the contractual indemnity
9 obligations.

10 This observation applies as well to the lemon law
11 litigations where the court acknowledges that in some cases
12 the debtors may not be a main party. Nevertheless, in each
13 of those cases, the debtors' interest are at issue as the
14 record reflects that the OEMs defenses in each of these cases
15 will certainly revolve around the acts and omissions of the
16 debtors.

17 Plaintiffs rely on W.R. Grace and Federal Mogul,
18 but I do not believe that those two cases require a different
19 conclusion. As I said, the Pacor decision articulated a
20 broad conceivable effect standard.

21 The Third Circuit's decision in W.R. Grace
22 clarified that standard as it related to indemnity
23 obligations and held that if parties needed to prosecute and
24 prevail in an intervening lawsuit to vindicate a right to
25

1 indemnity that that was too attenuated a relationship to give
2 rise to a bankruptcy court's related to jurisdiction.

3 In that case, the debtor, who operated an asbestos
4 mine, sought to stay claims brought against the state of
5 Montana. There was no contractual relationship between
6 Montana and the debtor at issue in the litigation. And what
7 was alleged was, at best, a common law theory of indemnity
8 that claims by citizens of Montana against the state for
9 failure to warn and protect them from the dangers of the mine
10 could ultimately carry through to the debtor.

11 The Third Circuit found this connection too remote
12 and declined to find related to jurisdiction.

13 In Federal Mogul, the debtor sought to bring into
14 the bankruptcy court thousands of asbestos related state
15 court lawsuits against many defendants, and the court found
16 that there was no jurisdictional predicate for that relief.

17 This case before me today is not analogous to an
18 asbestos case where there are often dozens of potentially
19 responsible parties, each one effectively to the exclusion of
20 the others and a persistent and legitimate question of
21 whether a plaintiff has any actual relationship to a
22 particular defendant.

23 Here, every single claimant knows the vehicle they
24 purchased and can establish the fact that it contains a
25 Takata airbag system.

1 As to the Federal Mogul decision, I note that the
2 debtors in that case sought to bring a raft of state court
3 personal injury suits into the Bankruptcy Court for
4 disposition. Here, by contrast, the debtors seek only a
5 brief stay of pending non-bankruptcy litigation.

6 I do not fully accept the MDL plaintiffs'
7 articulation of the "absolute and automatic" indemnification
8 standard that they derive from the W.R. Grace decision.

9 First, that phrasing does not appear in the W.R.
10 Grace decision and is not required by the logic of the
11 ruling. W.R. Grace stands largely for the proposition that
12 routine theories of common law indemnity or joint liability
13 are too thin a reed upon which to base a bankruptcy court's
14 related to jurisdiction.

15 This case before me is clearly distinguishable
16 from W.R. Grace and Federal Mogul, and I'm satisfied that the
17 debtors' indemnity obligations meet the identity of interest
18 prong of the subject matter jurisdiction analysis.

19 We turn then to the potential impact on the
20 reorganization. At the hearing, the objecting parties and
21 particularly the tort claimant's committee challenged the
22 debtors' evidence regarding the prospect of disruption and
23 distraction to their reorganization.

24 Specifically, they have pointed to discrepancies
25 between Mr. Caudill's filed declarations and his testimony

1 taken in deposition. I do acknowledge that the debtors'
2 case, at least as made through Mr. Caudill's testimony, is,
3 in fact, relatively thin.

4 He acknowledged that he has not actively
5 participated or attending proceedings in the many litigations
6 that are pending. And it is true that he struggled somewhat
7 in deposition to identify individuals in the organization
8 likely to be drawn away from critical duties to attend to
9 litigation matters.

10 But he also testified in his deposition at page
11 46, among several other places, that the demands of operating
12 the debtors are overwhelming in the present context. And he
13 noted that while he was not personally focused on these
14 lawsuits, personnel under his supervision such as Mr. Teal,
15 Mr. Bowling, and Mr. Schubert are subject to being engaged
16 with these proceedings and away from their normal duties.

17 Secondly, the court is entitled to take notice of
18 the undisputed landscape of the proceedings before it. The
19 debtors are engaged, as was noted multiple times at trial, in
20 the largest recall in history, while simultaneously
21 attempting to implement a reorganization strategy around the
22 globe involving dozens of plants and tens of thousands of
23 employees through proceedings that are pending here and in
24 Japan. And, at the same time, they are a party to literally
25 hundreds of active lawsuits involving not only injured

1 plaintiffs but also naming the debtors' most important
2 customers and business partners, entities that are absolutely
3 crucial to the reorganization effort as it is presently
4 postured.

5 What the debtors seek and need is a breathing
6 spell to focus the attention of all stakeholders on the
7 reorganization process. And the record developed thus far
8 supports that need.

9 The objectors contend that the debtors'
10 prepetition negotiations with the OEMs, while conducting the
11 recall and participating in the litigation, is proof that no
12 stay is necessary. I do not accept that argument.

13 First of all, the overlay of being a debtor-in-
14 possession drastically changes the burdens and demands on a
15 corporate enterprise and its management team. And, second,
16 the record does not support a finding that the debtors were,
17 in fact, easily able to manage on a prepetition basis, as
18 these cases were commenced well before the completion of
19 documentation critical to their reorganization.

20 So, I'm not satisfied that the debtors'
21 prepetition progress undercuts their request for a stay
22 today.

23 Thus, the court finds that it possesses related to
24 jurisdiction on the grounds that, first, the contractual
25 indemnification obligations between the debtors and the OEMs

1 support a finding that there is an identity of interest
2 between the debtors and the OEMs and TKJP. And, second, I am
3 satisfied that the continued prosecution of the state actions
4 and the individual actions will adversely impact the debtors'
5 efforts to reorganize.

6 As I mentioned at the outset, I will not stay the
7 multidistrict litigation as it relates to the consenting
8 OEMs. The record reflects that the MDL has been pending
9 since 2014 and serves to consolidate scores of injury and
10 economic loss actions into a single court in the Southern
11 District of Florida. The undisputed record further reflects
12 that that litigation is well advanced. Judge Moreno has
13 announced his intention to commence trials in February and
14 April 2018 and significant discovery has occurred.

15 I acknowledge that the parties disagree as to
16 whether additional discovery will be needed from the debtors.
17 But I know that the MDL has utilized a special master to
18 coordinate and manage the ongoing discovery process among the
19 many parties.

20 On balance, I don't believe that the debtors have
21 carried their burden to obtain a stay of the MDL as to the
22 OEMs. While certainly a large and complex proceeding, it is
23 effectively a single proceeding in a single court and is,
24 therefore presumably easier or, at least, less burdensome for
25 the debtors to monitor on a post-petition basis.

1 In addition, the record reflects that there have
2 already been several significant settlements in the MDL and
3 the court notes that the debtors are specifically not asking
4 for the MDL to be stayed as to approval and implementation of
5 those settlements.

6 At bottom, while I do acknowledge that this court
7 possesses jurisdiction to order a stay of the MDL, I am not
8 satisfied that the burden upon the debtors is sufficient to
9 warrant staying a single proceeding that captures scores of
10 suits and embodies a coordinated approach to discovery and
11 trial prep.

12 And I considered this in contrast to the risk and
13 burden associated with hundreds of suits pending in various
14 courts across the country. While the debtors, of course, may
15 continue to enjoy the protection of the automatic stay as to
16 the MDL, it is not too much ask that they monitor and
17 participate in that proceeding as they may see fit.

18 We turn now to the legal standard which is
19 governed by bankruptcy Code Section 105(a) and Rule 7065.

20 The elements for injunctive relief have been
21 extensively briefed and the applicable test is well
22 established. Courts consider one, the debtors' likelihood of
23 success; two, the risk of irreparable harm; three, the
24 balance of the harms between the debtors and non-moving
25

1 parties and; finally, whether public policy supports entry of
2 the injunction.

3 I will first address the state actions. And for
4 the reasons I will provide and, as I noted, I will enter a
5 preliminary injunction staying the proceedings commenced by
6 New Mexico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Hawaii for a period
7 of ninety (90) days to and including November 15, 2017.

8 We are proceeding under the assumption that the
9 matters that were initiated by these state entities are, in
10 fact, police and regulatory actions that are exempted from
11 the automatic stay under Section 362(b)(4), although the
12 debtors have reserved their rights to challenge these
13 assertions at a later point.

14 I start with the proposition that state police
15 power and regulatory actions are not immune from entry of
16 preliminary injunctive relief, notwithstanding Section
17 362(b)(4) which merely provides that such actions are not
18 automatically stayed by virtue of a bankruptcy filing.

19 And this is consistent the holding in Enron which
20 both sides discussed and mentioned in their briefing.

21 The states have correctly noted that the debtors
22 bear a heavy burden to demonstrate entitlement to such
23 relief. Case law supports this position and common sense,
24 likewise, dictates that a bankruptcy court should be chary of
25

1 interfering with the exercise of a sovereign entity's police
2 and regulatory power.

3 However, I do find that the debtors carried their
4 burden sufficient for entry of the brief ninety (90) day that
5 I'm granting. Before turning to the four-part test, I
6 mentioned above, I must observe that the court's ruling on
7 the state action is also informed by the following
8 circumstances that are specific to the case before me.

9 First, the record reflects that these debtors are
10 operating under the strict review and oversight of a federal
11 agency, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration,
12 and they are conducting under federal direction and
13 compulsion a massive recall.

14 These cases present an unusual and, perhaps,
15 unique posture, at least in my experience. The threat of
16 injury or loss posed by the debtors' products presents a
17 substantial and identical risk in all 50 states in the U.S.
18 territories.

19 Vehicles with components subject to the recall are
20 literally everywhere. And, so, while the court acknowledges
21 that the state actions have been commenced to protect the
22 citizens of those particular states or territories which is
23 entirely proper and appropriate action by those authorities.
24 The fact is that there is nothing unique about the threat to
25 the citizens of those two states and the territory.

1 And that brings me to a fundamental tension
2 between the animating principles of the Bankruptcy Code and
3 the relief that is sought by the states in the state actions.

4 As we discussed at the argument last week, the
5 state actions represent the proverbial race to the
6 courthouse. Each of the plaintiffs is identically situated
7 to every other non-moving state and territory. And any
8 relief obtained by those entities in the state actions will
9 necessarily be to the detriment of the citizens of other
10 states.

11 Resources and funds will be committed to
12 facilitate a remedy in New Mexico, in Hawaii, or the U.S.
13 Virgin Islands and those resources will, thus, be unavailable
14 for other states individually or, more importantly, for a
15 coordinated nationwide approach.

16 I, of course, commend the authorities in New
17 Mexico, Hawaii, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for their
18 diligence in acting to protect their citizens. But it is a
19 core principle of the U.S. Bankruptcy laws that proceedings
20 in other forums may be stayed in order to afford a breathing
21 spell and, more importantly, to provide for consistent
22 treatment of similarly situated stakeholders. Vindication of
23 that core principle requires the imposition of a temporary
24 stay upon the state actions.

25

1 I also note that this conclusion is not affected
2 by TKJP's Chapter 15 filing. And, specifically, the
3 provisions of Bankruptcy Code Section 1521(d).

4 The record reflects that the court ordered
5 supplemental briefing and I appreciate the submissions that I
6 received on Monday. I find that Section 1521(d) has no
7 application to the proceeding before me. It is a bar to a
8 foreign representative seeking to enjoin a state's police
9 power or regulatory action.

10 In this case, however, it is the Chapter 11 debtor
11 that is seeking the relief, not the foreign representative to
12 appear in this court late last week. Now while the state
13 suggests that I should treat the request by the debtors as
14 functionally a request by TKJP and the foreign
15 representative, I note that I am obliged to respect both the
16 corporate separateness of these Chapter 11 debtors and TKJP,
17 as well as to recognize the distinction between the Chapter
18 15 proceedings and these Chapter 11 proceedings.

19 Turning then to the four-part test as it relates
20 to both the state actions and the individual actions. The
21 four elements, as I said, are well established.

22 The burden is on the debtor to establish each of
23 the four elements. And the Third Circuit further teaches in
24 the Revel decision that if the moving party does not carry
25 its burden as to likelihood of success and irreparable harm,

1 the court should deny the motion without reaching the last
2 two prongs.

3 I start with the likelihood of success. Case law
4 here teaches that the proper focus is on the debtors'
5 prospects for a successful reorganization and whether the
6 conduct to be enjoined threatens that reorganization. I am
7 satisfied that the debtors have carried their burden under
8 this prong.

9 The debtors' prospects for a successful
10 reorganization are clearly enhanced if at this critical
11 juncture early in these cases they and their largest
12 customers and other stakeholders are afforded the opportunity
13 to focus on the reorganization efforts.

14 I note that the debtors have requested a six month
15 stay until February 2018. And it is under this prong that I
16 have reduced the duration of the injunction to ninety (90)
17 days. Consistent with my comments a few moments ago, in a
18 nutshell, the debtors have asked for a six month stay to
19 implement a comprehensive global transaction and
20 restructuring.

21 But, as I noted earlier, other than the
22 accommodation agreements, no documents relating to the
23 proposed sale or the plan have been filed. A brief stay to
24 permit that to occur and to allow a breathing spell for the
25 debtors is appropriate.

1 If in several months the debtors seek a further
2 injunction, I assume we will have a plan and a disclosure
3 statement and relevant deal documents on file. And then all
4 parties, at that point, would have a sufficient basis to
5 evaluate the debtors' intentions, stakeholder support, and
6 prospects for a successful reorganization.

7 As to the second prong, I do find that the debtors
8 have carried their burden that they will suffer irreparable
9 harm in the absence of an injunction. For the reason that I
10 stated a few moments ago, I find that the task of monitoring
11 hundreds of lawsuits and the prospect of what's been
12 collectively described as record taint including collateral
13 estoppel are material risks for these debtors.

14 The objectors contend that as a matter of law
15 there is no risk of collateral estoppel if the debtors choose
16 to sit out the various lawsuits they're moving forward. I
17 understand that argument as a technical application of the
18 definition of collateral estoppel. But as a practical
19 matter, I do not accept that these suits can proceed, where
20 the central feature of every suit is the unintended explosion
21 of the debtors' airbag system, without material effect on the
22 debtors down the line.

23 I will proceed to the balancing of the harms. As
24 to balancing, I start by observing that a ninety (90) day
25 stay is a presumptively modest imposition in civil

1 litigation. I am certainly aware from the record before the
2 court made last week through the submissions, as well as,
3 frankly, the court's long experience that a ninety (90) stay
4 may, in fact, throw off discovery and trial schedules. But,
5 again, there is nothing truly remarkable there.

6 On the other side of the equation, I consider the
7 potential harm to the debtors' reorganization effort and the
8 functional benefit of requiring all stakeholders to focus
9 their attention on that effort.

10 While it is true, as noted above, that the court
11 has only limited visibility into the debtors' reorganization
12 strategy and plan, I do have a pretty good sense of the
13 negative consequences of a failed restructuring here on all
14 parties: the debtors, their employees, the OEMs, vehicle
15 owners awaiting recall, and the litigants as well.
16 Accordingly, I find that consideration of the balance of
17 harms favors the debtors.

18 The final prong is whether public policy favors
19 imposition of the requested injunction. I have observed in
20 many other similar cases that this prong rarely plays a
21 significant part in the analysis. The movant typically
22 offers an anodyne statement that the injunction will promote
23 reorganization and, therefore, is consistent with public
24 policy.

25

1 This case is different, and the court is obliged
2 to be mindful of the very significant policy considerations
3 that are before it. On the one side are the claimants, many
4 grievously injured who wish to be pursue their rights and
5 remedies in the forum of their choice. And also on that side
6 are the states, which are seeking to act to protect their
7 citizens and to enforce their respective statutes.

8 On the other side is the reorganization process
9 which cries out for a coordinated approach to address the
10 crisis that these debtors and other parties face. As I noted
11 before if, in fact, the debtors' reorganization collapses,
12 the recall process may be put into serious jeopardy and the
13 prospects and options of the many claimants will certainly be
14 harmed.

15 Considering those two admittedly significant
16 considerations, I am satisfied that the entry of a ninety
17 (90) day stay on the terms that I've described is appropriate
18 and warranted and consistent with public policy.

19 Having granted the debtors' request for a
20 preliminary injunction, I turn now to a matter that was the
21 subject of a good deal of discussion at the hearing last
22 Wednesday.

23 Debtors' counsel acknowledged early in the hearing
24 that no one lawsuit posed a significant threat of delay or
25 distraction or consumption of time and resources. It was the

1 accumulated mass of hundreds of litigations pending in scores
2 of forums -- and to use counsel's phrase death by a thousand
3 cuts.

4 And so, the debtors offered or committed to confer
5 with any litigant after entry of the injunction to respond to
6 individual circumstances that might warrant some form of
7 relief from the injunction they had requested.

8 Counsel for the tort claimants fairly observed
9 that the debtors' proposal threatened to turn the burden for
10 injunctive relief on its head. And I expect that debtors'
11 counsel's reaction to that argument was along the lines of,
12 no good deed goes unpunished.

13 Here's where I come out.

14 For the reasons that I've stated, I'm satisfied
15 that the debtors have carried their burden for the entry of a
16 preliminary injunction staying litigation for ninety (90)
17 days. As I noted, I do not believe as a practical matter
18 that the imposition of a three month stay in civil litigation
19 is a remarkable or unusual burden on the parties.

20 I am also acutely aware, however, of the suffering
21 and difficult circumstances that many claimants are facing.
22 And I do expect that the debtors to be responsive where
23 circumstances warrant. And I would suggest that they start
24 by communicating with Mr. Rothenberg regarding the Krasulja
25 litigation.

August 30, 2017